

The Alma Record.

Published Thursday Afternoon By
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SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 PER YEAR

The Record is entered at the post office at
Alma, Michigan, for transmission through the
mail as second class matter.

A WEATHER MYTH

The Idea That the Old Fashioned
Winter Was a Fury.

FAMOUS FROSTS WERE RARE.

Records Show That Remarkable Snow-
storms and Long Seasons of Hard
Freezing Were Not All the Rule.
Testimony of Pepps and Evelyn.

Perhaps the greatest of weather
myths is the legend of the "old fashion-
ed winter"—that prolonged season
of ice and snow which is supposed to
have held the land in its grip every
year. So firmly has this idea been held
for many years that it came as a shock
when meteorologists first began to
delve into the records of the past and
prove its inaccuracy.

There can be no doubt that Charles
Dickens, Washington Irving, artists
who depicted winter scenes, and, in a
later era, the Christmas number and
the Christmas card are mainly respon-
sible for the belief that up to about
half a century ago the British winters
were always extremely severe.

Such records as we possess prove the
fallacy of the idea. No records of the
weather were kept up to about fifty
or sixty years ago, so that we have to
rely on the statements of private diar-
ies and old family records, and there-
fore it takes a lot of research to obtain
any data at all.

In older times no one troubled to
make note of average weather, for
writing was an art possessed only by
few, and writing materials were hard
to obtain; hence it is that mention is
made only of something unusual, some-
abnormally mild winter or heavy fall
of snow or prolonged frosts.

And when all is said there are com-
paratively few of the latter, although
they were likely to be recorded, while
the milder ones would be passed over.
A few years ago there were published
in France some notes concerning very
mild winters in early times. Gregory
of Tours tells us that 584 was excep-
tionally mild, as were the winters of
808, 834, 844 and 1007, when influenza
was rife.

Another mild season occurred in
1229, when the birds are said to have
hatched their young by February,
while the weather journal of the Rev.
William Merle, which is in the Bod-
leian library at Oxford, shows us that
during the middle of the fourteenth
century the weather was very much as
it is now and that mild winters were
not uncommon.

There were one or two mild winters
during the next hundred years, the
most notable one being that of 1495,
when barley and corn were in the ear
at the end of January. Writings of the
sixteenth century have similar testi-
mony to offer, the one or two excep-
tions only going to prove the rule be-
cause they aroused so much comment.

Pepps and Evelyn come to our aid
from the middle to the end of the sev-
enteenth century and prove conclusively
that the old fashioned winter is a
myth. The diaries of these famous
writers have been analyzed, and as a
result it is found that falls of snow
are mentioned only thirteen times over
nearly sixty years, while exceptionally
heavy storms are referred to only three
times.

In the same period there were but
six prolonged frosts, and apparently
only the famous one of 1680-4 and an-
other a few years later were so severe
as the modern ones of 1890-1 and 1895.
In January, 1661, Pepps comments on
the mild winter, and in December of
the following year he notes that he
awoke to find the roofs covered with
snow, which he had not seen for three
years.

Evelyn has the same story to tell—
a few hard winters and many mild
ones. Such years were 1680-7, Dec.
20, "Little appearance of winter as
yet," and 1692-3, Feb. 4, "Hitherto
an exceedingly mild winter—an ex-
traordinarily dry and warm season,
without frost and like a new spring,
such has not been known for many
years."

Here and there we come across ref-
erences to the weather which are just
like the letters written to modern
newspapers informing readers that
"roses and primroses were in bloom in
my garden on Christmas day." Gil-
bert White's record of the weather be-
tween 1768 and 1798 helps to end the
myth, for the same number of years
at the present day would show pretty
much the same sort of weather, as
thirteen of the Decembers were mild
and wet.

There were mild winters in the begin-
ning of the nineteenth century, as well
as one or two severe ones, so that we
may rest assured that the "old fashion-
ed winter" was just like the new
fashioned ones—Ernest C. Poulbrook
in London Family Herald.

Stuck to His Rule.

He had just been discharged from
the service, owing to wounds, and
thought to raise a few pounds by writ-
ing his reminiscences of twelve months'
fighting. Having completed the manu-
script while in hospital, he offered it
to a publisher for \$100. It was a very
small volume, and such a price made
the publisher raise his eyes in surprise
and inquire the reasons for such a de-
mand. "My dear sir," replied the au-
thor, "it has been a point of honor
with me, as a soldier, always to sell my
life as dearly as possible."—London
Chronicle.

It is his whole life, not a few inci-
dents of it, that proves the man—
Bovee.

Jotham Allen was in Chicago over
Sunday, looking up labor for the
Sugar Co., the coming season. He
informs us that it is a very difficult
task much more scarce than last
year.

MICHIGAN NEWS
ITEMS IN BRIEF

Paragraphs of interest to Wol-
verina State Readers.

News of All Kinds Gathered From
Various Points in the State and So
Reduced in Size That It Will Appeal
to All Classes of Readers.

Stephen Reynolds, aged 77, civil war
veteran and life-long resident of Eaton
Rapids, is dead.

James Crawford, of Escanaba more
than half a century, is dead at the age
of seventy-eight years.

Several of Co. C, M. N. G., are li-
able to court-martial for failure to ap-
pear at the last inspection.

Patrick Culligan, 65, president of the
Alpena County Savings bank, resident
of Alpena since 1870, is dead.

Charles Beals, well known through-
out the upper peninsula and northern
Wisconsin, is dead of apoplexy.

Sam Gate, resident of Lake Linden,
veteran mining man and resident of
the copper country for more than fifty
years, is dead.

Capt. G. Smith, known in marine cir-
cles on the great lakes, and former
pilot of the steamer Friant, is dead at
his home at Marquette.

A \$50,000 fire visited the village
of Hermansville, Mich., and for a
time threatened to destroy the large
lumber mills and yards.

R. N. Roberts, of Escanaba, veteran
lumberman and employee of the I. Sto-
phenon company, is dead, following a
short illness with pneumonia.

The government selected a site 4 1/2
miles from Eagle river on what is
known as Sand Point, for the erection
of a lighthouse and fog signal station.

Dr. Herman Ostrander, for 25 years
connected with the Kalamazoo State
hospital, has been elected superin-
tendent to succeed the late Alfred I.
Noble.

Mrs. J. Potvin's son, Victor, aged 2,
was burned in a fire which destroyed
the Potvin home, three miles south of
Oashtoke.

Word is received of the death in
Charlotte, N. C., of Mrs. Thomas Cor-
nellison, wife of Rev. Thomas Cor-
nellison, former pastor of Hastings
Presbyterian church.

Brainard Dalton, killed by a pas-
senger train, was the son of R. P. Dal-
ton, former assistant superintendent
of the Grand Trunk, with headquar-
ters at Battle Creek.

The Menominee school board by a
unanimous vote approved a plan to
create a bond issue of \$165,000 to be
used in making extensive changes in
school buildings there.

Dreaming she was being pursued and
she and her baby were in danger of
death, Mrs. Joseph Klinck held the
child so closely in her arms that it
was killed at Grand Rapids.

Authorities are informed by Sec-
retary Lansing that John N. Dolke,
a native of Calumet, who has been de-
tained by British authorities at Man-
chester, England, has been released.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie
will have a new charter if a proposi-
tion calling for charter revision car-
ries at the spring election in April,
following action taken by the city
council.

Logging in copper country was cur-
tailed about 30 per cent since the first
of the year, according to E. A. Hamar,
manager of the Worcester Lumber
company of Chassell. The snow is the
cause.

Henry Ford is preparing to
launch a country-wide campaign of
newspaper and magazine advertising
against the program for huge naval
and military expenditures now before
congress.

Miss Emma Train, about 85, known
throughout the upper peninsula as "the
mystery woman of Au Train," and al-
so known as "Swede Emma," is dead
in her little cabin on the shore of Au
Train lake.

Word from Illinois officers was re-
ceived at Coldwater that Ralph Nor-
ton, of that city, son of Frank Norton
had been arrested at Kankakee, Ill.,
charged with the murder of a tramp
companion.

Locked out of his home when he re-
turned from the Howe military acad-
emy, Howe, Ind., Frederick Travis,
Jr., son of a prominent business man
and capitalist, was forced to seek shel-
ter at the Clinton county poor farm.

Mrs. F. May, a Kalamazoo wom-
an, said to have at one time been a
prominent resident of northern Indi-
ana, where she was active in church
and fraternal circles, was sentenced
to serve sixty days in the county jail
for running a "blind pig."

The telephone served a unique pur-
pose at Manistique when L. C. Barnes
of Escanaba entered a plea of guilty
to a charge of hunting deer with dogs
without leaving the confines of Delta
county. Justice McKinney fixed his
fine of \$15, to be forwarded by tele-
graph.

Shortages of seed corn in the northern
states are becoming more serious as
the importance of the crop in this
area increases. In 1903 the acreage of
corn in the northern tier of states—
New England, New York, Michigan,
Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas,
Montana, Idaho and Washington—was
6,716,152 acres. Last year it was 11,
121,000.

Mrs. Ellen Hodson, aged 93, res-
ident of Jefferson township, Hillsdale
county, for half a century, is dead.

Leo Valdas, 25, of Newaygo, lock-
ed himself in his granary and blew
out his brains with a shotgun.

Calumet was chosen as the place for
the Superior conference of the Augus-
tana synod at its closing session.

Mrs. N. C. Emerson, an old resident,
is dead at Standish. She was born
in 1842. Her husband and two chil-
dren survive her.

H. Rogers, Saline, 50, stock buyer,
for Sheriff H. G. Linderschmitt, com-
mitted suicide by shooting himself
through the heart.

It is generally anticipated at Calu-
met there will be a much earlier rush
than usual at the opening of naviga-
tion of coal laden ships.

A dozen "blind pig" cases in the
Iron county court but one was ac-
quitted. The cases are disposed of at
the rate of two each day.

The body of C. M. Graves, Jackson,
was found on the floor of his home by
neighbors. Indications are that he had
died from coal gas asphyxiation.

Temporarily insane, Bert Coffin, for-
ty-five years old, a prosperous farmer,
committed suicide by shooting him-
self in the mouth with a shotgun.

Members of the board of educa-
tion at Battle Creek have ordered
a free noon-day luncheon for poor
children attending open air schools.

The committee in charge of the 30th
anniversary reunion of the Michigan
Colleges of Mines alumni, selected
August 8-10 as the dates for the re-
union.

A Bosker, Kalamazoo, was con-
victed of dismissing Lambert Belterman,
a member of the state militia, because
he attended the encampment last
summer.

Della Taylor, a milliner, and W. L.
Baker, president of the People's sav-
ings bank, were burned to death in a
fire which destroyed a block of busi-
ness buildings at Midland.

Charles Fuller, a well known citizen,
county agent of corrections and chari-
ties, dropped dead in front of the
courthouse at Bad Axe at 1 o'clock
in the morning.

There are rumors to the effect that
Oneco, Offaway Seneca, Gratiot,
Cliff, Tremont-Devon and many others
of the old copper prospects will re-
sume development work.

Eight trade union men of Alpena
representing every trade union in the
city have voted to boycott all persons
in the city using other than organized
labor in building operations.

What is said to be the largest real
estate deal ever closed in Oakland
county went through when Detroit
realty men purchased the C. L. Rock-
well farm of 280 acres for \$175,000.

Albert McCaskey's 3-year-old son,
living south of Morenci, was fatally
burned and the other members of the
family narrowly escaped death when
their farm home was destroyed by fire.

With a few potatoes saved from the
summer all that was standing be-
tween them and starvation, Charles
Peterson and his family of eight mem-
bers were discovered by authorities in
Laird township.

A Johnson, of Norway, on his way
home from Iron Mountain, tried to
board a North Western freight train
at Quinnesec, but lost control of his
hold and was thrown under the
wheels. He was instantly killed.

Funerals of three pioneers of Eaton
Rapids took place within three days.
Jacob Bahney, ninety-eight; William
A. Hall, eighty-four, and Stanley A.
Freeman, seventy-one, had all resided
in Eaton Rapids more than fifty years.

H. Wigginton, Sault Ste. Marie, who
pleaded guilty to murder in the second
degree in the shooting of Edna Ben-
nett and John Plunk, was sentenced
to from fifteen to thirty years in Jack-
son prison by Circuit Judge Louis H.
Feas.

The court has dismissed the charge
against Ira B. Gage, one of the of-
ficers of the City bank, of Dowagiac,
the closing of which caused a finan-
cial crisis in southwestern Michigan
eight years old. The action followed
a ruling of the supreme court.

At a recent basketball game
held at Baldwin two school boys
were so intoxicated that one had to
be dismissed from the hall. As a re-
sult, Louis Berticci, local Italian, was
bound over to circuit court on a
charge of furnishing liquor to minors.

Marian McNeal, teacher in one of the
districts about Crystal Falls, was at-
tacked while passing along a lonely
road from her school to her boarding
place. The assailant came upon her
from behind and struck her a blow
on the head with a club that rendered
her unconscious.

That he had posed in the nude
with Byron Wagner, eighteen years
old, on "the spur of the moment" and
that it didn't occur to him that he
shouldn't have done it until after-
wards was the sole defense of Prin-
cipal L. S. Rehm, of the Sherman high
school, who was found guilty by the
Wexford county school examiners of
charges of immorality preferred by
the Sherman board of education.

Ruling that Circuit Judge Widdis
order to the local supervisors to ap-
prove his \$94 law book bill was "in
violation of the principles of Ameri-
can government" and that no con-
tempt had been committed in com-
menting on it and disobeying it, Cir-
cuit Judge Nelson Sharpe, of Ogemaw
county, ordered the release of Super-
visors Robinson, Searl and Belknap
and Prosecuting Attorney Albert W.
Black, of Isosco county, at the con-
clusion of the hearing on writs of habeas
corpus.

Farm and
Garden

COMFORT FOR FARM WOMEN.

The Simplest Way of Getting Running
Water Into the Kitchen.
(Prepared by United States department of
agriculture.)

The convenience and comfort of
having running water at least in the
kitchen and in the bathroom if pos-
sible are so well recognized that engi-
neering specialists of the United
States department of agriculture
have been giving attention to the
simplest as well as to the more ex-
pensive methods of saving the farm
housewife the carrying of water in
buckets from the well or spring up
the porch steps and through doors
into the house.

Almost any system of obtaining
running water in the kitchen is bet-
ter than none at all. If the well or
cistern is located within a short dis-
tance of the house about the simplest
and perhaps the cheapest method is



GOOD TYPE OF ELEVATED TANK.

to place a pitcher or other pump over
a sink in the kitchen and extend the
suction pipe to the well. The suc-
tion lift should not exceed twenty
feet or the pump will not operate
satisfactorily, if at all. It should also
be remembered that water flowing
through a pipe meets with consid-
erable resistance due to friction, which
increases as the velocity of the water
and the length of the pipe increase
and as the diameter of the pipe di-
minishes. Elbows and bends in the
pipe greatly increase the friction.
Pump manufacturers give informa-
tion in regard to this frictional loss,
which should always be considered in
arranging a pumping system in the
kitchen or elsewhere.

An elevated water supply tank may
be placed in the attic, on the roof, on
the windmill tower, on a special tower
or on the silo. It must be high enough
to give the desired pressure at points
where the water is used. The tank
may be of wood or galvanized metal.
Its size will depend on the amount of
water used daily in the house. A 250
to 300 gallon tank is sufficient for the
average family, although some have a
much larger tank, so that a supply suf-
ficient to last several days may be
maintained. A larger tank is also nec-
essary where water is supplied to the
house and barns.

The simplest system of this kind is
one with the tank in the attic or on
the roof, supplying water to the kitchen
only. When the expense can be af-
forded a hot water tank connected
with the range may be placed in the
kitchen and the water plumbing be ex-
tended to a bathroom.

The pump for this system must be a
force pump, which not only raises wa-
ter to its own level by suction, but
forces it to greater heights, according
to the power applied. The pump may
be placed over the well or in any other
convenient spot as long as the suction
lift does not exceed twenty feet. A
three way valve on such a pump per-
mits the operator to direct the water
to the tank or through the pump spout,
as desired. The pump may be operated
by hand, but where much water is to
be pumped to a considerable height a
windmill, a small gas engine or an
electric motor will save much time and
exertion. If the location of the pump,
which should be convenient to the en-
gine, necessitates a long suction line
the size of the pipe should be increased
and all unnecessary bends or fittings
avoided in order to lessen the friction.

The great objection to an elevated
tank system is that in the colder cli-
mates there is danger of the water in
the tank freezing. This is particularly
objectionable when the tank is located
in the attic, where considerable dam-
age may be caused if it should burst.
It is also necessary to provide an es-
pecially strong support for the tank.
Another objection is that if located in
the attic the tank is likely to catch
considerable filth. It should in such
cases be easily accessible for more or
less frequent cleaning. It is well also
to cover the tank to prevent, as far as
possible, the entrance of dirt and
vermin, and when placed on a tower
outside it should be covered to pre-
vent the breeding of mosquitoes.

The great advantages of this sys-
tem are its cheapness and simplicity.
All that is needed is a force pump,
a storage tank, a pipe from the pump to
the tank, a pipe from the tank to the
point at which water is used and ac-
companying fixtures. The tank should
have an overflow pipe, particularly if
located in the attic.

For the Children

Little Miss Robbins
Coasting in New York.



Photo by American Press Association.

Snow in Central park, New York city,
is a great source of pleasure to the
little people who live in the vicinity of
the city's greatest playground. The
young miss in the picture, who is so
gayly taking advantage of the snow
provided by a fall of snow, is Miss
Frances Robbins daughter of Mr. Hen-
ry Pelham Robbins. She is making the
most of the snow. Lying flat on her
stomach, she is sliding down a hill,
clearing the way. Such scenes are very
common in New York city this winter
as old King David's hill has been
enough to send his snow sliding down
to the city. The snow is so soft and
Grown people don't care to go down
for snow in the city, but the little
people think it's splendid fun.

"The Trades of the Dumb."

Any number of children can play this
game, and it is amusing and interest-
ing. Let one player repair to the lat-
tice or to another room and decide what
trade he will represent. When ready
he knocks on the door and enters.
Without a word or a smile he begins
by motions to show what his chosen
trade is. Perhaps he is a carpenter.
Then he pretends to hammer nails, to
saw or plane a board. Perhaps he is a
coachman. In that case he makes be-
lieve to drive a horse, to turn a car-
riage or make the steed go. A tailor
sews and cuts imaginary cloth and
tries on garments. A painter goes
through the motions of painting, dip-
ping an unseen brush into a pretended
pail and spreading the paint on wall or
floor. There are other trades. One
may be a musician, a policeman, a sweep-
er, dressmaker, milliner, farmer, butch-
er, baker, grocer or sailor.

If the player laughs or answers or
speaks he must pay a forfeit when
the game is over. The other players
try their best by making funny re-
marks to cause him to laugh and lose
his dumbness, and he has to be very
alert not to get caught answering some
question or suggestion.

"Parcel Post."

Players sit in a circle. Each per-
son is supposed to be a package and
is given a number. One person blind-
folded is in the center. If there are
more than fifteen players there may
be two or more players blindfolded.
When the players in the center call
two or more numbers the players an-
swering to those numbers shall ex-
change places and are liable to be
caught by the center players during
the exchange. When the center play-
ers become tired trying to catch any
one they may call, "General delivery!"
At once every one jumps up and runs
for a new seat. When a player is
caught he becomes the blindfolded one.
Each one keeps the same number
throughout the game.

Potato Peeling Race.

A potato peeling race is good fun if
the party is informal and the guests
not too daintily clad. The hostess
provides a clean potato for each guest,
and at a signal all start peeling at
once. The one who gets through first
and produces an unbroken peel gets
the prize. This is more fun than an
apple peeling contest because of the
little knots and eyes in the potatoes.

The Cooky Cat.

Grandmamma made a cooky cat,
Brown and spicy and round and fat.
She set it up on the pantry shelf,
Safe and sound, and said to herself,
"Tomorrow morning when Bobby comes
I'll give him that cat and some sugar
plums."

And grandmamma smiled and felt very
glad,
For Bobby was such a dear little lad.

But, alas, when the house was dark and
still
The cooky cat felt a sudden thrill,
For she heard the patter of tiny mice.

Nearer and nearer they stily came.
The cooky cat trembled through all her
frame.
They climbed to the shelf on which she
sat.

Alas, alas, for the cooky cat!
She pleaded for mercy. The mice said:
"Nay,
For 'turn about' is, you see, fair play.
A cat will always eat mice, and that
Makes it fair for the mice to eat the cat!"

—St. Nicholas.

Not the Right House.

It had been a hard day for the book
agent. Sales were desperately slow,
and as a last resort he decided to
try a nearby house despite its shabby
appearance. "Have you a Charles
Dickens in your home?" he asked po-
litely. "No," she snapped. "Or a
Robert Louis Stevenson?" "No," "Or
a Walter Scott?" "No, we ain't,"
what's more, we don't run a boarding
house here, either. If you're looking
for them fellows you might try the
house across the street. I understand
they keep boarders."

Upholstry Work
and
Furniture Repairing

I will be in Alma March 22nd,
to do Upholstering and Furni-
ture Repairing. All desiring
work done, leave orders and ad-
dress General Delivery, Post
Office, before that date to get
special price.

Cecil Orr,

General Delivery

Report of The Condition of the

Alma State Savings Bank
at Alma, Michigan,

at the close of business March 7, 1916, as called for by
the Commissioner of the Banking Department:

RESOURCES

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Loans and Discounts, viz., | | |
| Commercial Department | \$120,110.65 | \$ |
| Savings Department | 45,637.06 | 165,747.71 |
| Bonds, Mortgages and Securities, | | |
| viz: Commercial Department | 1,000.00 | |
| Savings Department | 108,828.69 | 109,828.69 |
| Overdrafts | | 1,867.47 |
| Banking House | | 15,000.00 |
| Furniture and Fixtures | | 5,000.00 |
| Other Real Estate | | |
| Items in Transit | | 6,731.04 |

RESERVE

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Commercial: | | |
| Due from banks in reserve cities | 32,653.90 | |
| Exchanges for clearing house | 1,267.81 | |
| U. S. and National bank currency | 445.00 | |
| Gold coin | | |
| Silver coin | 1,884.25 | |
| Nickels and cents | 462.61 | |
| | 36,713.57 | |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Savings: | | |
| Due from banks in reserve cities | 52,192.46 | |
| Exchanges for clearing house | | |
| U. S. and National bank currency | 6,870.00 | |
| Gold coin | 4,030.00 | |
| Silver coin | | |
| Nickels and cents | | |
| | 63,092.46 | 99,806.03 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|------------|
| Checks and other cash items | | 301.14 |
| Total | | 404,282.08 |